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**ALLEGED MEMBERS OF CRYSTAL METH DISTRIBUTION RING
INDICTED BY U.S.; E-MAIL USED TO ARRANGE TRANSACTIONS**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today the filing of a superseding Indictment charging CRAIG BUTTERFIELD and MATTHEW GIAMELA with participating in a conspiracy to distribute crystal methamphetamine and Ecstasy in New York.

As charged in the superseding Indictment, members of the conspiracy arranged their crystal meth transactions using electronic mail messages. After the deals were arranged, packages of crystal meth were sent through the mail as were cash payments for the drugs.

The superseding Indictment describes a series of coded e-mail messages involving BUTTERFIELD and two co-conspirators not named as defendants ("CC-1" and "CC-2") in February 2004. In the first email, which was sent from a computer in Manhattan on February 13, 2004, CC-1 told BUTTERFIELD to "let me know if you want [CC-2] to visit you directly where you are." In a February 16, 2004 email, BUTTERFIELD replied that it would be a "huge help" for CC-2 to visit him directly, and stated, "I think [CC-

2]'s stay will only require ½ of the floor of rooms this time instead of the whole floor. That would give him 8 rooms and that should be enough for now." Two days later, on February 18, 2004, CC-1 sent an email directly to CC-2 requesting to have "1 package of 8 contracts" sent to an address in Florida, and asking that "the rest" be sent to BUTTERFIELD.

The superseding Indictment also charges GIAMELA with distributing and possessing with intent to distribute gamma hydroxybutyric acid ("GHB") and gamma butyrolactone ("GBL"). GHB, which is commonly referred to as the "date-rape drug," is a central nervous system depressant which causes drowsiness, dizziness, nausea, loss of inhibition, memory loss and visual disturbances. GBL is a chemical used to manufacture GHB and, upon ingestion, GBL metabolizes into GHB.

If convicted, both defendants face a maximum term of life imprisonment and a mandatory minimum term of 10 years' imprisonment.

Mr. KELLEY praised the investigative efforts of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

Assistant United States Attorney DANIEL W. LEVY is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the superseding Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.